

To: R6 Daily News MailList[R6_DailyNewsML@epa.gov]
From: Hubbard, Joseph
Sent: Tue 9/8/2015 3:25:40 PM
Subject: Daily News Digest, Tuesday, Sept. 8
[Daily News Digest 09082015.pdf](#)

1 — Texas congressman says EPA can dispel suspicions in hearings on Colorado mine spill, Dalllas Morning News, 9/7/2015

<http://www.dallasnews.com/news/washington/20150907-congressional-hearings-focus-on-colorado-toxic-mine-spill-caused-by-epa-crew.ece>

The focus on a toxic mine spill that fouled rivers in three Western states is shifting to Congress, where lawmakers this week kick off a series of hearings into the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency accident. Leading House and Senate Republicans said EPA officials were frustrating their attempts to investigate the spill.

2 — Texas falls under EPA clean water regulation, Longview News Journal, 9/8/2015

<http://www.news-journal.com/news/2015/sep/07/texas-falls-under-epa-clean-water-regulation/>

The Obama administration's controversial new clean water regulations apply in Texas after all. Clarifying an injunction he issued last week, a federal judge in North Dakota said he blocked the federal Waters of the U.S. rule — aimed at better defining the scope of bodies of water protected under the federal Clean Water Act — from taking effect in only 13 states suing in his court.

3 – Drilling boom leaves some ranchers in a wasteland, Santa Fe New Mexican, 9/7/2015

http://www.santafenewmexican.com/news/local_news/drilling-boom-leaves-some-ranchers-in-a-wasteland/article_2e3d873d-4c07-5706-9b25-8a3e49b03f47.html

Carl Johnson and son Justin are third- and fourth-generation ranchers who for decades have battled oilfield companies that left a patchwork of barren earth where the men graze cattle in the high plains of New Mexico. Blunt and profane, they stroll across a 1 1/2-acre patch of sandy soil — lifeless, save for a scattering of stunted weeds.

4 — Close attention warranted for EPA's new ozone rule, Oklahoman, 9/8/15

<http://newsok.com/article/5444646>

IT'S difficult to keep track of the many ways the Environmental Protection Agency under the Obama administration is working to make life more difficult and costly for Americans. One plan to pay attention to involves ozone regulations.

This proposed rule hasn't garnered as much attention as, say, the EPA's Clean Power Plan, which seeks to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 32 percent below 2005 levels by 2030. Energy produced from fossil fuels is the main target of that plan; naturally, Oklahoma oil and gas companies are concerned about the CPP's impact.

5 — Letter: Contamination, The Pueblo Chieftain, 9/7/2015

<http://www.chieftain.com/opinion/3918318-120/cotter-contamination-lincoln-park>

Attending the Future Use Community Planning Meeting (which could have been called “what will we do with Cotter’s contaminated neighborhood?”), I couldn’t help but feel that this is, again, time and effort for naught. Or, as a friend of Lincoln Park often said, “I’m afraid they’re drinking their own bath water.”

6 — (Opinion) Proposed EPA ozone rules will damage economy, San Antonio Express News, 9/6/2015

<http://www.mysanantonio.com/opinion/commentary/article/Proposed-EPA-ozone-rules-will-damage-economy-6486253.php>

An independent study of water quality in the Animas River after the Gold King Mine spill shows major human health concerns were short-lived, though slight spikes in pollution might occur with runoff. Mountain Studies Institute, a nonprofit scientific research organization with an office in Durango, found a spike in metals as the orange plume passed through Durango on Aug. 6.

7 — Would you like processed sewage sludge with that?, Victoria Advocate, 9/6/2015

<https://www.victoriaadvocate.com/news/2015/sep/06/would-you-like-processed-sewage-sludge-with-that/>

So, you might ask yourself - is processed sewage sludge (biosolids) safe to apply to Texas farms and forests? And the answer would be - no, it is not safe. First, let me caution everyone about what you might refer to as an odor or smell. It is really an emission

8 – Old mines present mammoth remediation task in N.M., News OK, 9/6/2015

http://newsok.com/old-mines-present-mammoth-remediation-task-in-n.m./article/feed/885580?custom_click=rss

Steering his Toyota 4Runner through a dirt path in the town of Cerrillos, Todd Brown points to one of the piles of waste rock that have been sitting for decades in one of the most mineral-rich mining districts in the state. “In the old days ... they didn’t even know what reclamation meant,” Brown says about the process of restoring an abandoned mine site. “And people die, and people move and people sell. That’s why nothing ever got cleaned up.”

9 — (Opinion) Don’t cherry-pick the science on methane, Express News, 9/7/2015

<http://www.mysanantonio.com/opinion/commentary/article/Don-t-cherry-pick-the-science-on-methane-6486290.php>

Rep. Lamar Smith is the chairman of the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. One would expect he measures his public statements wisely, talks to independent science and technology experts often, and bases his statements on the best available evidence, rather than preconceived, ideology-driven notions.

10 — Wetlands ruling could open more area for development, Houston Chron, 9/5/2015

<http://www.houstonchronicle.com/news/houston-texas/houston/article/Wetlands-ruling-could-open-more-area-for-6487460.php>

A federal judge has ruled that environmental regulators erred by trying to block a home builder from filling in wetlands in Montgomery County - a decision that could open more areas of greater Houston to development. In a scathing, eight-page opinion issued last week, U.S. District Judge Lynn Hughes in Houston wrote that the Environmental Protection Agency went beyond its authority and acted in bad faith while trying stop Thomas Lipar from building homes on his marshy property near The Woodlands.

11 — What went wrong? Why EPA delayed notification after mine spill, Cortez Journal, 9/7/2015

<http://www.cortezjournal.com/article/20150907/NEWS01/150909904/What-went-wrong?-Why-EPA-delayed-notification-after-mine-spill>

Something caught San Juan Sheriff Bruce Conrad’s eye on Aug. 5 that compelled him to pull off on the side of County Road 110. He looked to the right, and there was Cement Creek as he knew

it, murky and meandering. He then looked over his other shoulder and couldn't believe what he saw.

12 — Public hearing set on coal export terminal in Plaquemines, Times Picayune, 9/7/2015

http://blog.nola.com/westbank/2015/09/public_hearing_set_on_coal_exp.html#incart_river

The Louisiana Department of Natural Resources will hold a public hearing on a proposed coal export terminal in Plaquemines Parish. The meeting is Sept. 17 at 6 p.m. at Belle Chasse Auditorium, La. 23. Lanier & Associates Engineers of Baton Rouge filed the application for the terminal May 29 on behalf of RAM Terminals.

13 Are we shifting to fewer, weaker Atlantic hurricanes?, Times Picayune, 9/7/2015

http://www.nola.com/hurricane/index.ssf/2015/09/atlantic_hurricanes_fewer_weak.html

A new but controversial study asks if an end is coming to the busy Atlantic hurricane seasons of recent decades.

The Atlantic looks like it is entering in to a new quieter cycle of storm activity, like in the 1970s and 1980s, two prominent hurricane researchers wrote Monday in the journal Nature Geoscience.

14 Businesses Sue EPA Over Clean Water Rule, Ed Williams, KUMN, 9/4/2015

<http://kunm.org/post/businesses-sue-epa-over-clean-water-rule>

A coalition of businesses in New Mexico and Arizona are suing the Environmental Protection Agency over a recent rule extending clean water protections across the country. The EPA says regulating more streams and tributaries under the Clean Water Act will protect drinking water supplies and safeguard public health. Environmental groups have applauded the rule, but some industries say complying with the law would be too expensive.

15 National lab reports violations of hazardous waste permit, AP N.M., 7/5/2015

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/fe54f313898849ad92261e98d50e8dd8/national-lab-reports-violations-hazardous-waste-permit>

An extensive review at one of the nation's premier federal laboratories has turned up violations in how the lab handled hundreds of containers of radioactive waste over the past decade. The latest revelations are on top of the permit violations Los Alamos National Laboratory first reported last year in the wake of a radiation release at the federal government's underground nuclear waste dump in southern New Mexico.

16 EPA Water Rule Applies to Texas After All, Texas Tribune, 9/4/2015

<http://www.texastribune.org/2015/09/04/epa-water-rule-applies-texas-after-all/>

The Obama administration's controversial new clean water regulations apply in Texas after all. Clarifying an injunction he issued last week, a federal judge in North Dakota says he blocked the federal Waters of the U.S. rule — aimed at better defining the scope of bodies of water protected under the federal Clean Water Act — from taking effect in only 13 states suing in his court.

17 States rarely punish companies for oil wastewater spills, Tulsa World, 9/8/2015

http://www.tulsaworld.com/business/energy/states-rarely-punish-companies-for-oil-wastewater-spills/article_eebe2e1e-8ad5-5174-9795-da35e4cf517d.html

In April 2013, a malfunctioning oil well in the countryside north of Oklahoma City caused storage tanks to overflow, sending 42,000 gallons of briny wastewater hurtling over a dike, across a wheat field and into a farm pond. State regulators ordered the oil company to clean up as much of the spill as possible and repair the site. But they didn't impose fines or other punishment against Moore Petroleum Investment Corp., a tiny company in Norman that operates only a few wells.

18 Big cities scramble to be prepared for an oil train disaster, Tulsa World, 9/6/2015

http://www.tulsaworld.com/business/energy/big-cities-scramble-to-be-prepared-for-an-oil-train/article_72497773-7ef8-58b7-9a4d-e33f0abded56.html

They rumble past schools, homes and businesses in dozens of cities around the country — 100-car trains loaded with crude oil from the Upper Midwest. While railroads have long carried hazardous materials through congested urban areas, cities are now scrambling to formulate emergency plans and to train firefighters amid the latest safety threat: a fiftyfold increase in crude shipments that critics say has put millions of people living or working near the tracks at heightened risk of derailment, fire and explosion.

19 Baton Rouge to launch carpooling program, website later this month, Advocate, 9/7/2015

<http://theadvocate.com/news/13331473-123/baton-rouge-to-launch-carpooling>

Baton Rouge drivers are often trapped in bumper-to-bumper traffic, but that hasn't made carpooling an attractive alternative for the vast majority of commuters. The Capital Region Planning Commission would like to see that change, not only to help relieve the Baton Rouge area's oppressive traffic congestion, but also to reduce a source of pollutants that contribute to the formation of ozone.

20 Medical conditions upgraded for burn victims in Renewable Energy Group plant explosion, Advocate, 9/6/2015

<http://theadvocate.com/news/13356335-123/report-four-injured-in-overnight>

A once financially troubled biofuels plant in Ascension Parish still recovering from an April blast again exploded and caught fire late Thursday, injuring four workers and temporarily forcing highway closures and workers in at least one other plant to shelter in place, authorities said. The explosion at the Renewable Energy Group plant about 11 p.m. Thursday was sparked from a hydrogen line undergoing maintenance, parish sheriff's deputies said.